

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 - Cancelled

2. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 41, wherein said at least one flexible conductive track foil is fastened to said stiffening element.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 41, wherein a trough-shaped stiffening element is provided and said at least one flexible conductive track foil is laid into said trough-shaped stiffening element.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 41, further comprising attaching at least one component on said flexible conductive track foil before said plastics material is injection-molded therearound.

5. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein said at least one component is an electrical component.

6. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein said at least one component is an electromechanical component.

7. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 5, wherein said electrical component is a sensor.

8. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 6, wherein said electromechanical component is a micro-switch.

9. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein said stiffening element is prefabricated with a receiving means for said at least one component.

10.(Original) A method asset forth in claim 9, wherein said receiving means is hoodshaped.

11. (Previously Presented) A method asset forth in claim 41, wherein said stiffening element is prefabricated with spacer elements and said injection mold has mold surfaces, said spacer elements keeping said stiffening element in said injection mold at a distance from said mold surfaces.

12. (Previously Presented) A method asset forth in claim 41, wherein said injection mold has mold surfaces, and wherein supporting cores are used in said injection mold when said plastics material is injection-molded around said stiffening element and said flexible conductive track foil so as to keep said stiffening element at a distance from said mold surfaces of said injection mold.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 41, wherein at least two flexible conductive track foils and associated stiffening elements are superposed in sandwich-like manner and embedded in plastics material by injection-molding.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 41, wherein said plastics material injection-molded around said at least one conductive track foil and said stiffening element is a thermoplastic material.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of PBT (polybutylene-terephthalate) and PP (polypropylene).

16. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 4, wherein at least one receiving means for said component is produced on said stiffening element by injection-molding when said plastics material is injection-molded around said stiffening element and said conductive track foil.

17. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 16, wherein said component is a micro-switch.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 41, further comprising bending said flexible conductive track foil in a region and fastening said bent region to a projection of said stiffening element before injection-molding said plastics material around said flexible conductive track foil and said stiffening element.

19. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising slipping a ring element under clamping onto said bent region so as to secure said bent region of the flexible conductive track foil on said projection of said stiffening element after plastics material has been injected therearound, with said bent region left clear.

20. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein said prefabricated stiffening element is a casing having an inner space and said flexible conductive track foil is provided in said inner space of said casing before said plastics material is injection-molded therearound.

21. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said casing is prefabricated in two parts.

22. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 21, wherein said two parts of said casing are a trough-shaped part and a lid part.

23. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 21, wherein said two parts of said casing are prefabricated as separate parts.

24. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 21, wherein said two parts of said casing are interconnected by an integral hinge and are prefabricated in one piece.

25. (Currently Amended) An electrically conductive track unit comprising at least one plastics-embedded conductive track foil, wherein said conductive track foil is accommodated by a plastics-embedded stiffening element, and an injection molded plastics material around said foil and stiffening element, said foil and said stiffening element being prefabricated as separate parts which are united by said plastics material during injection molding, said stiffening element being prefabricated and constructed and arranged to support said at least one conductive, flexible track foil in a retained and stabilized position prior to and after placement in a mold for injection molding of said plastics material and preventing displacement of the foil during the injection molding.

26. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 25, and further comprising at least one plastics-embedded component.

27. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said component is an electrical component.

28. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 26, wherein said component is an electromechanical component.

29. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 25, wherein said stiffening element is a casing.

30. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 29, wherein windows are provided in said casing as well as in said plastics embedding so as to keep conductive contact surfaces of said conductive track foil clear for contacting thereof.

31. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 29, wherein said casing includes a hood-shaped receiving means accommodating a component connected with said conductive track foil.

32. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 29, further comprising a plastics embedded component, and a receiving means for said component, said receiving means being made of said plastics embedding material and being separate from said casing.

33. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 29, further comprising spacer elements externally provided on said casing, said spacer elements being embedded in said plastics material so as to end flush with the external surface of said plastics material.

34. (Original) A conductive track unit as set forth in claim 33, wherein said spacer elements are knob-shaped.

35. (Currently Amended) An embedding unit to be used in a method of embedding at least one flexible conductive track foil in a plastics material, wherein a prefabricated stiffening element having the form of a casing is provided, said casing comprising two matching casing parts with a receiving space provided therebetween when the casing parts are in the assembled state, said casing accommodating said at least one flexible conductive track foil in said receiving space thereof and securing said conductive track foil against bending, said track foil when secured in said casing in the assembled state forming said embedding unit which is adapted for introduction into an injection mold, said casing protecting the foil against bending prior to and during introduction into said mold as well as during injection of plastics material into said mold.

36. (Original) An embedding unit as set forth in claim 35, wherein at least one casing part includes a window for contacting said conductive track foil.

37. (Original) An embedding unit as set forth in claim 35, wherein both casing parts are formed with external spacer elements.

38. (Original) An embedding unit asset forth in claim 37, wherein said spacer elements are knob-shaped.

39. (Original) An embedding unit as set forth in claim 36, wherein at least one casing part has

a projection projecting through a window provided in the respective other casing part when said casing parts are in the assembled state.

40. (Original) An embedding unit as set forth in claim 39, wherein said projection is web-shaped.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of embedding at least one flexible conductive track foil in a plastics material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one flexible conductive track foil which by itself is not adapted for being embedded in plastics material by injection molding,

providing a separate, prefabricated stiffening element,

separating supporting said at least one flexible conductive track foil by said stiffening element to resist displacement and bending of said foil,

placing said at least one flexible conductive track foil supported by the separate prefabricated stiffening element in an injection mold, and

injection molding plastics material around said at least one flexible conductive track foil and said stiffening element, in the injection mold, and wherein said at least one flexible conductive track foil is prevented by said stiffening element from undergoing displacement and bending in the injection mold during the injection molding of the plastics material materia.

42. (New) An electrically conductive track unit comprising:

at least one flexible conductive track foil which by itself is not adapted for being embedded in plastics material by injection molding,

a separate, prefabricated stiffening element supporting said at least one flexible

conductive track foil to resist displacement and bending of said foil,

said at least one flexible conductive track foil supported by the separate prefabricated stiffening element being supported as a unit in an injection mold, and being embedded all around by an injection molded plastics material introduced in said mold around said at least one flexible conductive track foil and said stiffening element, in the injection mold, and wherein

said at least one flexible conductive track foil is prevented by said stiffening element from undergoing displacement and bending in the injection mold during the injection molding of the plastics material.